

Arab coalition wins Syrian polls

Syria's Socialist-led ruling coalition won the maximum number of seats it was allowed in general elections this week, Interior Minister Muhammad Harba said Sunday. He told a news conference that all 145 candidates fielded by the National Progressive Front were elected to the 145-seat parliament. The other 84 seats were reserved for independent candidates. About 3,000 candidates registered in the election, campaigning for which took place freely in 26 years. Harba said a total of 3,265 million people voted out of 6,576 million registered voters, representing 49.62 per cent. But he said the real turnout was 60.77 per cent when the number of Syrian expatriates and those in the security forces was taken into account. Syria's 100,000 troops and police are not allowed to vote. Harba said the Baath Party won 134 seats. Results for its coalition partners were: Communist Party eight, Socialist Union eight, Socialist Unionist seven, Arab Socialist five and Arab Socialist Democratic Party four. The new government includes 21 women. It must hold its first session within 15 days.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

Volume 15 Number 4461

AMMAN MONDAY, MAY 28, DHUL QAIDAH 3, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

متحف الراي - متحف
ZITRO MAHTAB.B.NI

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Palestinian mission on hunger strike

KHARTOUM (AP) — Members of the Palestinian community, including the diplomatic mission here, began a hunger and sit-in strike Sunday to show solidarity with compatriots in Arab Jerusalem. Palestinian leaders in Arab Jerusalem entered the eighth day of a hunger strike Sunday to protest the May 20 massacre of eight Arab labourers near Tel Aviv by an Israeli gunman. Abu Rajaei, the Palestinian ambassador in Khartoum, said the strike was intended to demonstrate to the Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories that they were not alone in their ordeal. The ambassador who is known by his nom de guerre, said the strike was also aimed at protesting Israel's "increased brutal suppression of Palestinians." The ambassador did not say how many were taking part in the strike.

Rafsanjani attacks West over hostages

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani attacked the West Sunday for doing nothing to help trace three Iranians missing in Lebanon or press Israel to free hundreds of Arab prisoners. Rafsanjani said the West should have stepped up efforts to determine the fate of the Iranians and free the Arab prisoners following the release of two American hostages last month. Iran played a key part in freeing Robert Poirier and Frank Reed, held hostage by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. Another 15 Westerners are still in captivity. "A response [to the West] should now demand itself and tell the world why it is... making no effort to secure the release of the Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian [prisoners]," Rafsanjani told a group of visiting Lebanese reporters broadcast by Tehran Radio.

Labour lead over Tories slips

LONDON (R) — The opposition Labour Party's opinion poll lead over Britain's ruling Conservatives has fallen in the last month, newspaper reports said. A Monday poll appearing in early editions of the Sunday Times newspaper gave Labour 48 per cent of public support, six points lower than a month ago, and the Conservatives 35 per cent, four points higher. A separate Harris survey in the Observer newspaper showed Labour slipping four points and put the gap between the two parties at 18 per cent. The popularity of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party slumped this year largely as a result of a new local tax levied on every adult.

Burmese opposition claims victory

RANGOON (R) — Burma's opposition said Sunday it was heading for a landslide victory in the country's first multi-party elections in 30 years even though the military government banned its most prominent leaders from standing. Thousands of supporters danced and sang outside the opposition National League for Democracy headquarters, but ended their celebrations before troops began to enforce the tightly-enforced 10 p.m. (1530 GMT) curfew, announcing the first result, "the league had won Rangoon's port district with 80 per cent of the vote" (earlier story on page 5).

Egypt nabs 13 with heroin in stomachs

CAIRO (R) — Police at Cairo airport caught 13 Nigerian Sunday who had swallowed capsules of heroin from India, carried copies of the Holy Koran on their heads in a traditional sign of protest. They said five men and eight women were caught with 20 kilograms of heroin with a street value of 20 million pounds (\$7.4 million). Two of the women were pregnant. Police, working on a tipoff, had taken the Nigerians to hospital where the drugs were detected by X-ray. The sources said another five Nigerian women in transit at Cairo airport were being investigated.

Arab leaders gather for Baghdad summit

By P.V. Vivekanand in Amman with agency dispatches

ARAB LEADERS gathered in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday for an emergency summit which is expected to discuss what is widely perceived as a pan-Arab security strategy in the face of a host of threats and challenges. However, at least five Arab heads of state were not expected at the summit — President Hafez Al Assad of Syria, President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman, President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon and King Hassan II of Morocco. While Algeria, Oman and Morocco were sending high-level delegations, it was not clear Sunday whether Syria and Lebanon were totally staying away from the conference or will send official delegations to Baghdad.

High among the agenda for the summit, called by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), are Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, the right of Arab countries to acquire technology, the Middle East peace process, the lingering Iran-Iraq dispute and an Egyptian call for the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons from the region.

The conference, which is being held two days before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush are scheduled to meet in Washington for their second summit, will also send strongly-worded messages

to the two superpowers calling for immediate action to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The summit will try to talk to the Soviet leadership into halting the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel... the leaders also will try to get the Americans to play an even-handed policy in the Arab-Israeli conflict," according to an Arab diplomat. However, "under the circumstances, the Arabs don't have any leverage on Moscow or Washington. Conditions of Arab dignity can only encourage the Israelis to be more intransigent," said the diplomat.

A 16-page memorandum from Washington, delivered to Arab foreign ministers who met in Baghdad last week to prepare for the summit, touched off a row.

The memorandum urged the Arabs to avoid rhetoric, focus on direct Arab-Israeli negotiations and avoid outright denunciations of the Soviet Jewish emigration.

The memorandum also accused Iraq, which says it has developed binary chemical weapons and long-range missiles which it would use to retaliate if attacked by Israel, of violating international conventions banning use of chemical and biological weapons.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz angrily dismissed the American document as "in-

Qadhafi continues mediation

LIBYAN leader Muammar Qadhafi Sunday continued his efforts to ensure Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's participation in the Baghdad summit. He resolved not to give any of the occupied Palestinian land, or through the nuclear/chemical deal off between Israel and Iraq and what is described as a Western/American campaign against Iraq's quest to build its military might. The sweeping changes in Eastern Europe which have led to resumption of formal ties between Israel and some of the erstwhile Soviet bloc states, and the diminishing status of the Soviet Union as a staunch supporter of Arab causes add to a pressing sense of urgency for a united Arab position and action.

However, the absence of Syrian leader Assad appeared to have dealt a blow to hopes that the Baghdad summit would be a turning point in Arab history, clearing the way for the Arab states, stretching from Morocco in the west to the United Arab Emirates in the east, to adopt a unify position and action.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi made a stopover in Damascus Saturday in an unsuccessful last-ditch effort to persuade Assad to travel to Baghdad, the capital of his Baathist rival Saddam Hussein.

According to Syrian spokesman Jibril Kourich, Assad insisted that the summit should be preceded by a meeting of the foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League in Tunis to decide a venue and prepare a detailed agenda.

Assad and Qadhafi discussed the

tremendous period," said Qatar's Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani.

The leaders of Egypt, Kuwait and Yemen also arrived in Baghdad Sunday, joining those of Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti, who came Saturday.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who counts as head of Palestine, arrived with Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

Saddam Hussein and his entourage broke into applause when Ali Abdallah Saleh, elected president of the new United Yemen last Tuesday, stepped out of the plane from Sanaa.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Sabou said the summit was "lacking in initiative and strategy."

He told reporters: "If the summit were able to muster an action plan we'd have been much better off. But as things stand, we're taking stock of scattered incidents without being able to visualize a strategy. I would say Syria is far-sighted having decided not to attend."

Algeria announced Saturday that Benjedid would also stay away. It gave no reason but Algerian officials and newspapers had said a summit without Syria was pointless.

Algerians are also concerned that the failure to list Lebanon on the summit agenda could torpedo the work of a three-member committee set up by the last Arab summit in Casablanca in May 1989 to bring peace to the fractured country. Algeria played a key role in the committee which also included Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

There is increasing anxiety in the Arab World because of the dangers threatening the security of our nation," Sheikh Issa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa of Bahrain said.

"We are going through an ex-

King arrives in Baghdad, meets other Arab leaders

BAGHDAD — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Sunday at the head of the Jordanian delegation to the emergency Arab summit which opens Monday.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and senior Iraqi leaders as well as Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Al-Batsh received the King and the accompanying delegation upon arrival.

The delegation includes Prime Minister Mustafa Barzani, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al-Qasem.

The King was seen off upon departure from Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who was sworn in as Regent before the departure, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, and senior officials.

Shortly after his arrival and the welcoming ceremony, the King held talks with the leaders of Bahrain and Egypt on topics on the agenda of the summit, Jordan Television said. The Monarch was expected to meet with other Arab leaders later Sunday.

Chief editors accompany King

For the first time, the chief editors of Jordanian newspapers are accompanying the King to an Arab summit. Mahmoud Al-Kayed of Al-Rai, George Hawashneh of the Jordan Times, Makhmud Al-Sharif of Al-Dustour and Sultan Hattab of Sawt Al-Shaab travelled with the King to Baghdad Sunday upon a special invitation from His Majesty.

Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed will attend although Morocco has had cordial relations with Iraq for many years.

Sultan Qaboos of Oman announced he was sending a personal envoy, Thweini Ben Shihab, to represent him.

Amid tight security, Baghdad's international airport was closed to regular traffic Sunday as the Arab leaders arrived in private jets.

President Hussein greeted each leader as a military band played national anthems and the military fired 21-gun salutes.

Baghdad was decorated with Arab slogans, banners fluttering atop trees and lamp-posts read: "United we stand, divided we fall" and "Jerusalem is calling you O Arab leaders."

Moscow warns migrants

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has told Arab leaders that it is trying to discourage Jewish emigrants to Israel from going to the occupied territories.

A message to the Arab summit which opens in Baghdad Monday said Moscow might also give migrants the right to return to the Soviet Union, a move requested by Arabs alarmed at the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

But in spite of a conciliatory tone towards Arab concerns, the message indicated no reversal on the right of Jews to emigrate. It was sent to the Arab League Tuesday and an Arabic text was obtained by Reuters Sunday.

"The Soviet union sees that the right of emigration should not be at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people," it said.

"The Soviet Union has started an awareness activity among (Soviet Jewish) emigrants to warn them against travelling to occupied Arab territories," it said.

The Supreme Soviet was studying a draft law that would allow emigrants to keep their Soviet nationality "so that they could return home if they wanted to," it added.

"The Soviet Union has also taken measures to limit the phenomenon of anti-Semitism which has been used as a pretext to encourage emigration," it said.

"The Soviet Union is continuing its efforts to coordinate with the United States, Western Europe and other countries to ensure that the emigrants are free to choose where to reside."

The Arabs see the new wave of Jewish emigration, coupled with Israel's rejection of peace efforts, as a threat to peace.

They fear many Soviet Jews will settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials estimate that as many as 750,000 Soviet Jews will go to Israel, but deny there are plans to settle them in the occupied territories and force out the Palestinian inhabitants.

Soldiers kill Gazans, shoot and wound at least 10

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army eased its longest curfew on the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday, and troops shot dead a Palestinian when clashes erupted in a crowded refugee camp, hospital officials said.

Reports said 10 other Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers as curfews confining people to their homes were lifted for more than half the 750,000 Palestinian residents of the strip.

Curfews were imposed on Gaza and the West Bank on May 20 after eight Palestinian labourers were massacred by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv, setting off a wave of protests that left 15 dead and hundreds wounded.

Most curfews have been lifted in the West Bank, where two Palestinian women were reported wounded Sunday in a clash with soldiers in Jenin. In Gaza, about 300,000 Palestinians remained confined to their homes in Gaza

city and surrounding refugee camps.

Palestinian reporters said most Gazans stayed away from jobs in Israel after leaders of the Palestinian uprising urged a strike until June 7 to protest the massacre.

Seven Jerusalem-based European consuls met the Palestinian nationalists Saturday and said they backed international supervision, while the U.S. representative said his government was prepared to discuss only a U.N. fact-finding mission.

"There was marked disappointment with the American position and a clear statement that Palestinian peace overtures are being frustrated and undermined by U.S. timidity towards Israeli rejectionism," the Palestinians said in a statement.

"If the United States again thwarts Palestinian efforts to involve the international community in imposing law upon Israel, American credibility will be irreversibly damaged," it added.

Palestinian leaders who launched

53 killed, scores injured in two Pakistani cities

HYDERABAD, Pakistan (R) — Fifty-three people were killed, many shot by police, in political and ethnic clashes Sunday in Pakistan's cities of Hyderabad and Karachi, doctors and witnesses said.

One local reporter said he counted 12 bodies on the street, while a doctor at the Bhutto hospital said: "We have about 35 dead today."

The doctor said at least 200 people had been injured, many of them with gunshot wounds, and were lying on hospital floors already crowded by 150 casualties from Saturday's clashes.

Troops were called out to take over security after the shootings in Hyderabad and in parts of Karachi, 150 kilometers away, where 18 people died in a series of clashes.

Officials said 12 people died in firing by unidentified gunmen and clashes with police in Karachi's Liaquatpur district and the rest in four other areas.

The Hyderabad bloodbath, which took the death toll in Sindh province to over 120 this month, was the culmination of two weeks of clashes between Mohajir immigrants and native Sindhis.

Local reporters and eyewitnesses in Hyderabad said at least 20 women and two children were killed in police firing when they defied curfew restrictions and took protests to the streets in three city districts.

The women, Muslim refugees from India, carried copies of the Holy Koran on their heads in a traditional sign of protest.

Demanding the withdrawal of police from curfew-bound Pucca Olla, Resham Gal and Pureza districts of Hyderabad, around 200 women marched through the streets shouting "our children are dying" and "remove the blockades."

Police opened fire after warnings were ignored, hitting some of the protesters and people watching from the flat rooftops of the

French troops deployed in Gabon oil port

LIBREVILLE (R) — Troop reinforcements sent from France have taken up position in Gabon's oil capital Port Gentil, where lawlessness continued after anti-government riots in the former French colony last week.

A French army spokesman said Sunday: "The French army presence is becoming significant." But he declined to comment on the number of additional troops.

France sent 280 troops Thursday and an unknown number arrived Saturday to take up positions in Port Gentil, 130 kilometers from the capital Libreville.

Libreville, scene of violent anti-government demonstrations last week, was calm Sunday but diplomats said trouble continued in Port Gentil.

French sources said Gabonese troops in Port Gentil were trying to avoid direct confrontation with the protesters who went on a rampage last week following the suspicious death of Joseph Rendjambé, a leading opponent of President Omar Bongo.

"I think everything is clear. The committee touched upon a



Israeli troops move in on a lone stone thrower as others flee in Arab Jerusalem

Labour Party report blames Peres for failure in elections

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Labour Party report released Sunday blamed party head Shimon Peres for failures in the general elections campaign, raising new calls for his resignation.

The internal report by a group of party-appointed investigators said the October 1988 campaign gave too much personal attention to Peres at the expense of other party members and was bad for its reputation.

"I'm not looking for partners to responsibility and accusations but I'm not certain what's the measure of responsibility... the report is certainly serious, we have to draw the lessons but we have to do it close to the start of the next campaign," scheduled for 1992.

Turning to Lass, the angry leader then shouted: "You are not my judge, you have not experienced what I passed through."

Several hundred central committee members frequently interrupted Peres

Middle East News

Israel-U.S. ties headed for crisis, envoy says

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's ambassador to the United States was quoted Sunday as saying the Jewish state faced a severe crisis in relations with its closest ally unless it advanced Middle East peace efforts.

Yediot Achronot, Israel's biggest-selling daily, quoted what it said was a secret cable from Ambassador Moshe Arad to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

"Israel stands before a grave crisis in its relations with the United States which obliges it to re-examine its policies, particularly on contentious issues, chiefly the peace process and settlement," the cable said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said he could not comment on internal documents but a government source acknowledged relations were strained.

"The situation is difficult, there's no denying it," he said.

Arad's warning was leaked as ministers voiced satisfaction in a cabinet meeting that Israel had apparently blunted a drive by PLO leader Yasser Arafat to have U.N. observers sent to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The army lifted curfews from all remaining West Bank towns. U.S. criticism of Israel's hand-

ling of the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising in the territories sharpened last week after a crazed Israeli shot dead seven Arab workers. Troops and Jewish settlers have killed 17 more and wounded about 900 in subsequent protests.

Israel continued to reject any U.N. mission to the occupied Arab territories Sunday and dismissed Arafat's speech to the special Geneva session of the Security Council as exploiting the killings for political ends.

"Israel will not agree to a mission of the United Nations which will come by virtue of a Security Council resolution or on behalf of it or to any U.N. delegation which will be connected with the subject of security in the territories," Arens told the cabine.

Despite the ban on U.N. observers, unofficial watchdogs abounded at the weekend in a show of international concern. French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Aid Bernard Kouchner was due to meet Shamir after touring the occupied Arab territories and a Soviet delegation led by a former deputy foreign minister began a 10-day visit last Thursday.

Relations cooled further after Shamir's government admitted secretly funding a Jewish settlement in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City and supported two new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

His Labour coalition partners quit in response, leaving Shamir at the head of a hardline caretaker cabinet.

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U.S. criticism of Israel's hand-

Kidnappers threaten U.S., Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — Kidnappers holding two U.S. hostages have vowed to make the United States and Israel "pay the price" for the killing of seven Palestinian workers in Israel last week by a gunman.

But the Organisation of Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, in a statement issued Saturday, did not directly threaten the killing of the two hostages.

In another development, PLO chief Yasser Arafat reportedly said two Swiss Red Cross workers kidnapped in Lebanon seven months ago are alive, and he offered to help mediate their release.

The Arabic-language statement, delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut, came with an instant picture of U.S. hostages Jesse Turner and Alain Steen. They were kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987, from Beirut University College.

The picture showed a smiling, bespectacled Turner wearing a bushy black beard and a striped pullover. Steen wore a dark jumpsuit and a beard, and his hair was slightly dishevelled. Both looked straight at the camera.

The picture resembled a photograph the group released on Feb. 23, 1989, showing Turner and Steen along with former American hostage Robert Polhill.

On April 22, the same group released Polhill, a New Yorker and a lecturer in accounting who was kidnapped with Steen and Turner.

Turner, 42, of Boise, Idaho, and Steen, 50, a native of Boston, were professors serving with the U.S.-affiliated college when they were abducted by gunmen posing as Lebanese riot police.

Eight days after Polhill was freed, another pro-Iranian group, the Organisation of Islamic Dawn, released U.S. hostage Frank Herbert Reed, 57, after 3 and 1/2 years in captivity.

Iranian leaders and their Lebanese allies have since complained the United States has failed to respond with a goodwill gesture of its own.

"America is directly responsible for shedding the blood of our people and their cause," the 18-line statement said Saturday, referring to the shooting deaths of seven Arab labourers in a Tel Aviv suburb on May 20.

Israeli officials have said the accused gunman, a former Israeli soldier, was apparently deranged. The shootings prompted widespread unrest among Arabs in Jordan, Israel and the occupied Arab territories. Arafat also cited the killings when he urged the U.N. Security Council in Geneva Friday to send an international force to protect Palestinians in the occupied lands.

"We warn America and Israel that future developments will not be in the interest of either of them. They will realise that the blood will not be wasted. They will pay the price," the kidnappers' statement said.

"America seeks at all costs to retain its base, Israel, in the east and will not permit even verbal resolutions of an adverse nature against Israel." This was seen as a reference to frequent U.S. vetoes of U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning Israeli actions.

Asked about the statement, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Anita Stockman in Washington said: "I don't really have anything I can comment on in terms of the report except to say that our general policy is to say that the hostages should be freed immediately and unconditionally."

Feldman said that though Vanunu was allowed to see his family once a month, he had not seen them because he refused to meet them behind bars.

Islamic party seizes initiative in Algerian campaign

and state.

"From the moment one party says it represents God and the others the devil there is a danger of things getting out of hand," the RCD's Azziki Ait Larbi told Reuters.

The RCD, with strong support in the Berber-speaking Kabylie Mountains east of Algiers, has held rallies in Oran in the west and Bejaia, Setif and Bordj Bou Arreridj in the east.

FIS candidate in Hammam, Abdellah Hamed Hanifi, told a rally Friday God would punish those who did not vote for a "Muslim" — apparently meaning a FIS candidate.

Highly motivated and apparently well funded, FIS supporters have been canvassing door to door and — according to their opponents — tearing down rival posters.

This has alarmed liberal opposition parties like Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), the only one to stand openly its blank and there is little sense that history is being made.

But the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which seeks to build an

independents, who have swamped candidate lists nearly everywhere, complain they have yet to receive promised financial subsidies.

The FIS has so far done relatively little direct campaigning, but opponents say it does not have to.

The FIS controls a huge state budget, most of the media and an entrenched position that gives it unrivalled levers of youth-winning patronage.

"This is the first multi-party poll since independence. Darlan legitimately asks if the FIS is going to play the game or if the whole thing is a trap," said Larbi.

As the campaign started, the FLN government raised public sector salaries, cracked down on the black market and launched a youth job programme. The opposition has accused it of electioneering, a charge denied by Prime Minister Moulood Hamrouche.

Simcha Diniz, head of the Jewish agency, was quoted in Israeli media Monday as saying 20,000 Jews would begin arriving each month because of an increase in the number and efficiency of transit routes.

Ben Ari confirmed that 20,000 figure, saying the higher rate of arrival would be achieved in July or August.

The wave of Soviet immigrants from eased Soviet exit policies, growing reports of antisemitism in the Soviet Union and tighter restrictions on Russian immigrants entering the United States.

Officials expect about 150,000 Soviet Jews this year. So far, about 40,000 have arrived.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Algeria, Vietnam discuss ties

ALGERIA (R) — The presidents of Vietnam and Algeria, whose countries both waged long wars against French colonialism, met Sunday to discuss boosting ties, the Algerian News Agency (APS) reported. Vo Chi Cong, president of Vietnam's Council of State, had talks with Chadli Benjedid. He arrived Saturday for a week-long visit during which he will tour Algerian oil and industrial projects. Cong noted on arrival both countries were in the throes of deep changes — reform of Socialist economic systems put in place in the 1970s. He said his visit was aimed at creating "new opportunities to enlarge and promote bilateral cooperation."

Boat sinks in Istanbul, one killed

ISTANBUL (AP) — A cruise boat carrying members of handball teams from Iraq, the Soviet Union and Algeria sank Sunday, killing one person and injuring 10, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported. There could be more people trapped in the boat, which sank off Istanbul, Anatolia reported. The boat was carrying 71 passengers and many swam ashore or were picked up by fishing boats in the vicinity. The victims were not immediately identified. Adem Cevik, the boat's captain, told Anatolia the passengers had gathered at one end of the boat despite his warnings not to do so and upset the boat's balance. "The boat suddenly listed and I lost control of the rubber," Cevik said, according to Anatolia.

Israeli jailed for defacing Jewish graves

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court Sunday jailed a religious jew for three years after he confessed to desecrating some 300 Jewish graves in a warped effort to unite Israelis against Arab and anti-Semitic threats. The court in the northern city of Haifa gave David Goldner, a 41-year-old former computer engineer who recently turned religious, the maximum sentence for vandalism and dishonouring the dead. It added a one-year suspended sentence. Goldner admitted to police that he daubed graffiti such as "burn the Jews" on graves in three Haifa cemeteries earlier this month after the desecration of Jewish graves in the southern French town of Carpentras. He said he was trying to arouse awareness of the threats to Israel's existence.

UK to deport 2 for anti-Rushdie plot

LONDON (AP) — Two men who were reported to have plotted against Satanic Verses author Salman Rushdie will be deported and four others have been released, authorities said Saturday. A spokesman for Scotland Yard police headquarters said the men were detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. But he would not give the nationalities of the men and would not comment on the reported connection with a plot against Rushdie. Two men were released Friday and two were released Saturday from London's top security Paddington Green Police Station, police said.

Iranian embassy damaged in Beirut Amal-Hizbollah battles; one killed

BEIRUT (R) — The Iranian embassy in West Beirut was badly damaged by mortar and machine gun fire during night battles between rival Muslim Shiites in which one person was killed and seven were wounded, security sources said Sunday.

"Some undisciplined militiamen attacked the diplomatic centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran... The command of the Syrian forces was contacted and the attackers' guns were silenced," an Iranian embassy statement said.

It said the Syrians inspected the damage and promised to protect the embassy from further attacks.

It was the second attack on Iranian property in a week.

The radio also said guerrillas

fired 22 U.S.-made rockets into residential areas of the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing six people and wounding 12.

The Pakistan-based guerrillas have been trying for 12 years to overthrow the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan.

The guerrillas, known as Mujahideen or "Islamic holy warriors," insist they target only military installations but admit their rockets sometimes misfire and hit residential areas. More

than 100 rockets have hit the capital in the past week, killing more than a dozen people.

Western diplomats in Pakistan said the guerrillas apparently stepped up their attacks on Kabul to coincide with preparations for a Loya Jirga, or traditional grand council. The assembly is expected to approve major changes in the constitution and loosen the grip of the Communist-style People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan that seized power in a 1978 coup.

"We warn America and Israel that future developments will not be in the interest of either of them. They will realise that the blood will not be wasted. They will pay the price," the kidnappers' statement said.

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Feldman said that though Vanunu was allowed to see his family once a month, he had not seen them because he refused to meet them behind bars.

Afghan army reportedly pushes back rebels from Khost, kill 380

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Afghan government troops have thwarted an attack on the besieged garrison of Khost, killing 380 guerrillas, state-run Kabul Radio reported.

Seven soldiers and four civilians also died and 15 civilians were wounded in Saturday's attack on the garrison, located 30 kilometres from the Pakistan border, said the radio report, monitored in Islamabad.

The radio also said guerrillas

fired 22 U.S.-made rockets into residential areas of the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing six people and wounding 12.

The locust incident in Oman, where heavy periods of rainfall provided the extra moist ground that favours locust egg breeding, was the first to hit the Arabian peninsula this year. Oman reported the locust threat in early May but said containment measures had confined the threat to northern regions.

Saudi Arabia was invaded last year by large swarms of desert locusts from East Africa, and it deployed an intense campaign to combat them.

Bamfieh cautioned, "the next season may be active. This depends on the quantities of rainfall in the areas in which locusts are found," he said.

He worked for nine years as a low-ranking technician at the top-secret Dimona nuclear plant before telling the Sunday Times that Israel had produced up to 200 atom bombs at the site.

At the original trial Israeli prosecutor Uzi Hasson called for a life sentence.

Vanunu was convicted of aiding Israel's enemies and passing information with the intention of harming state security.

When Vanunu took the stand at the time, he argued that his disclosures about Israel's nuclear capabilities were not new. His family said he had acted for ideological reasons because he feared the spread of nuclear weapons.

Feldman said that though Vanunu was allowed to see his family once a month, he had not seen them because he refused to meet them behind bars.

Saudi Arabia not threatened by Oman locusts but those coming from Africa

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia is not threatened by locust swarms that recently invaded neighbouring Oman, officials of the Saudi Ministry of Agriculture and Water said Saturday.

The did not dispel, however, the possibility of a locust invasion from Africa next October.

"No swarms of the desert locusts are expected in the kingdom from Oman at present," said Salem Bamfieh, director general of the Agriculture Research Centre to the Associated Press.

He said that the new swarms of locusts in Oman could head for India or Pakistan in the near

future, depending on environmental conditions. But they could also head toward Somalia and the southern parts of the Arabian peninsula, he said.

There is a very slight possibility that, on their way toward these destinations, the locusts may hover across the Eastern and southern parts of the kingdom," Bamfieh said. "But this remains a very dim possibility," he stressed.

Saudi Arabia was invaded last year by large swarms of desert locusts from East Africa, and it deployed an intense campaign to combat them.

Bamfieh cautioned, "the next season may be active. This depends on the quantities of rainfall in the areas in which locusts are found," he said.

He worked for nine years as a low-ranking technician at the top-secret Dimona nuclear plant before telling the Sunday Times that Israel had produced up to 200 atom bombs at the site.

At the original trial Israeli prosecutor Uzi Hasson called for a life sentence.

Vanunu was convicted of aiding Israel's enemies and passing information with the intention of harming state security.

When Vanunu took the stand at the time, he argued that his disclosures about Israel's nuclear capabilities were not new. His family said he had acted for ideological reasons because he feared the spread of nuclear weapons.

Feldman said that though Vanunu was allowed to see his family once a month, he had not seen them because he refused to meet them behind bars.

Prayer times

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be warm and winds will be easterly moderate to fresh, causing dust in the eastern and southern parts of the country. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 28, 1990

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

الجordan times جريدة عربية مستقلة

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Putting the Arab house in order

THE FAILURE or success of the emergency Arab summit that convenes in Baghdad today will certainly shape the future of the Arab Nation for decades to come. Nowhere in its history has the Arab Order faced so many grave and intense problems; conflicts are many: war, sectarian strife, fundamentalism, economic hardships, a changing world and what not. These and many others are the major preoccupation of almost every Arab country; not even the affluent are spared. The problems are indeed ominous and the task that faces the Arab leaders gathered in Baghdad is formidable.

If maxims are anything to go by, and if charity begins at home, then the first priority of work that awaits the Baghdad summit is putting the Arab house in order. They have to face the threats from within before bracing themselves from a position of strength to confront the external threats and challenges, whether from Israel, Iran, Ethiopia, the U.S., the West or a united Europe. And the greatest threat from within is the cry for war, a calamitous solution for all the failures and catastrophes that befall the Arabs over the decades. But Arab leaders, thank God, realise that wars leave behind only destruction and misery.

That the enemies of the Arab Nation are conspiring against us should not come as a surprise. If anything, it should be the propelling force behind us to conspire against them. But, the problem is when Arabs conspire against Arabs and fight each other. The Arab masses are sick and tired of the continued inter-Arab bickerings and infights which serve no-one but the enemy and sap our own energies and resources. The people of the Arab World at large are indeed restless of the failure of their leaders to even solve its bread and butter issues, not to mention water, social, security and political problems. If world powers, whom many Arab states appear bent upon emulating in various other fields, are opting for reconciliation and compromise with a view to diverting attention to addressing their people's problems, isn't it time the Arabs followed suit?

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday discussed the situation in the occupied Arab lands in the light of a debate held by the United Nations Security Council, and wondered whether the Soviet Union which had allowed the aggravation of the situation in the region to continue, can now allow things to deteriorate further. The Soviet Union should stop the emigration of Soviet Jews who are now destined to settle on Arab lands, simply because this settlement is being done at the expense of the Arab people of Palestine and their homeland, said the paper. The Soviet Union ought to stop this emigration until Israel accepts U.N.-sponsored arrangements for providing protection to the Palestinians prior to finding a just and lasting settlement to their problems, the paper stressed. It said the Israeli prime minister has already rejected PLO leader Yasser Arafat's call for observer teams to be sent to Palestine as part of a package arrangement to ensure the protection of the civilian population. This rejection is a clear indication that Israel refuses United Nations Security Council resolutions and is bent to pursue criminal policies against the Palestinian people, the paper noted. The paper said that it now remains to be seen whether Moscow will allow the current situation to continue and so give Israel a free hand in dealing with the lives of the civilian population in Palestine.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily on Sunday reminds the Arab leaders who are meeting in Baghdad Monday of the failures of the past summits to put an end to Israel's arrogance and ambitious dreams in the Arab World. Abdul Rahim Omar recalls the failure of the various Arab armies sent in to fight the Israelis in the 1948 war, and how they failed to prevent the occupation of most of Palestine. The writer notes that the 1948 tragedy occurred soon after an Arab summit was held in Bludan in Syria, and that other setbacks took place at the hand of Israel following other summits by the Arab heads of state. The writer also reminds the Arab leaders of Israel's seizure of water resources and its absorption of hundreds of thousands of Jews to settle in Palestine, while the Arab World failed to stop this great catastrophe. Omar notes, however that the summit, to convene in Baghdad Monday, takes place under completely different circumstances and as the Arabs, specially Iraq, are far more stronger militarily than ever before, and as the Arab leaders meeting in the Iraqi capital are more determined this time to thwart Israel's plans. It is up to the Arab leaders now, says the writer, to find proper measures to put an end to Israel's atrocities against the Palestinians and to thwart its ambitious designs in the Arab World.

Al Dastour commented Sunday on Washington's underhand dealings with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Palestine question in particular. Washington has retracted a statement in which it displayed willingness to send United Nations observer teams to Palestine to monitor Israel's human rights violations and other atrocities, said the paper. Retraction of statements could not be the end of the road for the United States which could be expected to take a step designed to give Israel a free hand in dealing with the Palestinian people and to prevent any United Nations moves that could stop Israel from committing atrocities, the paper noted. It is clear that as Washington is trying to escape pressure from the Zionist lobby in Congress it finds itself bogged down in confused foreign policy, costing America its credibility world-wide, the paper noted. It said that as Washington is being pushed into a situation where it is openly encouraging aggression, it is leaving the Arabs with no alternative but to totally rule out any peaceful solution.

Time is running out for Mideast peace

By HRH Prince Hassan

The following article by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince appeared in the New York Times Saturday, May 26, 1990.

AMMAN — The killings of innocent Palestinians by Israelis in the occupied territories, and the subsequent popular uproar and agitation, underscore the need for the Arabs and Israelis urgently to fashion their own special glasnost — an accommodation that would seriously tackle the festering issues that have hampered the Middle East for generations.

Failure to arrive at this accommodation will surely escalate violence and terrorism, leading to yet another unaffordable war. Neither side will emerge a victor, because in fighting each other, Arabs and Israelis would be fighting the wrong enemy.

The real enemy is an expanding international fundamentalist movement. Jewish extremists constitute one element of this movement; the recent storming of the St. John's Hospice in Jerusalem, two days before Good Friday and Easter, was a manifestation of their bigotry.

Another element of the expanding fundamentalist movement is an Islamic cohort, that is influential in the politics of Muslim societies from Southeast Asia westward through Afghanistan to Lebanon and North Africa.

Islamic extremists are likely to become active in the intifada. The consequences will not be pleasant for Israel, nor for Jordan.

Jordan is committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We cannot afford to wait until the Arabs and Israelis make suitable

compromises that would bring them to the negotiating table. They must be induced to talk to one another — now.

It will not do any longer for the U.N. Security Council to merely consider, and perhaps approve, resolutions condemning Israel's hostile actions against Palestinians. It is encouraging that the Security

to be reduced national entities to their sectarian components.

The only triumphant residue or such a war would be politico-religious fundamentalism — Islamic, Christian and Jewish. The Gulf, Palestine, Lebanon — all these places are only the flashpoints. The fanatical war, if unchecked, could extend from Cairo to Islamabad and beyond. We would then witness the ethnic and cultural Lebanisation of our region.

Make no mistake about it; the "domino theory", so widely cited in the 1960's by those who advocated U.S. intervention to contain Communism in Southeast Asia, is alive and kicking in the Middle East.

In this respect, Jordan's goal has been to check Iran's quest for hegemony over the region and its vital resources, such as oil, and to contain the rising tide of religious fanaticism.

Jordan believes, as do other moderate Arab states, that an international resolution of the Mideast conflict can be best debated and defined under U.N. sponsorship. The Arab summit meeting in Baghdad will, Amman hopes, provide a fresh consensus about the need to renew the peace process. The Arabs' ability to act during and after that meeting is as critical to the process as is Arab unity.

The exchange of land for peace can be the only acceptable basis for a just and lasting settlement. Such an exchange is embodied in U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for a withdrawal by foreign forces from the occupied territories and which also implicitly recognise the existence of Israel as a sovereign state.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union must assume greater responsibility in expediting the peace process. Proposals must be designed to accommodate the political requirements of

the Palestinians and the resettlement of Soviet Jews.

Israel can no longer deny the existence of the principal aggrieved party in the dispute, the Palestinian people. Successive Israeli prime ministers have tried to deal with the Palestinian question through third parties.

For several years, Israel toyed with the "Jordanian option", and currently it appears to have appointed Egypt as surrogate. But it is neither Jordan's nor Egypt's responsibility to participate in this subterfuge. Nor should they, since it would signify their acquiescence to the denial of the Palestinians' fundamental right to national self-determination.

Since the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories violate international law, the U.S. and Europe should predicate their subsidisation of the immigration and resettlement of Soviet Jews on Israel's freezing all settlement activity in the occupied territories. They can do much to ameliorate this difficult situation by increasing annual quotas for Soviet Jews to settle in their own countries.

Israel must be more forthcoming about implementing fair elections in the occupied territories. The Israeli government has centered its objection on the emotional question of Palestinian representation. Israel's deying the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people continues to be an impediment to progress. No doubt Israel's purpose is to drive a wedge between the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their acknowledged and recognised leaders in the PLO.

We hold out both a challenge and an olive branch to the Israelis. Will they seize the opportunity for a lasting peace for a region that has suffered so much?

Weekly Political Pulse

Taiwan: Industrial giant seeking unity with Mainland

By Waleed Sadi

TAIPEI has come to age this year with renewed confidence and conviction to wage unity talks with Peking. Two forces have contributed to this fresh start from Taiwan: One is the underlying belief that it is not realistic to avoid unity with Mainland China under one formula or another and, therefore, the sooner contacts between the two sides begin the better the two can get prepared for their irrevocable destiny. The second force is Taiwan's economic strength which is only second to Japan when measured in accumulated foreign reserves and that country's future prospects. This newly acquired economic and fiscal muscle has enabled Taipei to pursue a resolute "foreign policy" that is more associated with economic goals than with purely political considerations. In this vein, Taipei is tiding high on the new ground rules for diplomacy in the international arena where the language of hard currencies is getting louder and more relevant than traditional political rivalries based on ideology. With a foreign reserve topping \$79 million, Taipei now talks and acts as a mighty economical power that many poorer countries would covet strengthening their relationship with her.

The phasing out of martial law regime in Taiwan, as has been confirmed on the occasion of taking the oath of office by President Lee Teng-Hui on May 20, is also another vivid sign that Taiwan feels more confident than ever politically as well economically. This bold action also signified the end of the era of open confrontation with Peking as a relic of past times and circumstances. President Teng-Hui words on the occasion of his inauguration for a six-year term echoed this new spirit that is projected to dominate the future Taipei-Peking relations.

To give further expression to this new line of thinking towards Mainland China, President Teng-Hui also announced the end of his country's 40-year-old policy based on the three no's: no official contact, no negotiations and no compromise. As a matter of fact economic and political contacts between the two sides have been nurturing over the past few years and found expression in the visits to China by several Taiwanese parliamentary delegations and the funding of several economic ventures there by indirect investment from Taiwan. Also many Taiwanese with mainland roots have made repeated visits to their ancestral homeland. A smaller number of Mainlanders have made similar trips to visit their relatives in Taiwan.

Meanwhile, the inauguration of the new president was marred by

Africa day:

Challenge of development, reforms

The following is the text of the message of Egyptian President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity on the occasion of the celebration of Africa Day, May 26.

TODAY we celebrate Africa Day. Twenty seven years ago, on this very day, the free will of Africa had converged on establishing the OAU. The OAU stood and still stands as a great edifice for the aspirations of African peoples for freedom, unity, solidarity and progress. Africans, regardless of their varied social and political systems supported their continental organisation in order to eradicate the long and notorious era of colonialism and lay the bases of constructive and fruitful cooperation and joint action among all the countries of Africa. Today the OAU is a reality, a driving force in present African life and in the world at large.

Today is indeed a moment of reflection on the long and glorious march Africa has taken over the years, the struggles and achievements and the remaining problems of economic and social developments as well as the issues of human rights and democracy.

Namibia's independence of the 21st of March 1990 is indeed a great achievement and symbol of freedom, dignity and national sovereignty for all Africa. Now with the independence of Namibia, we trust that endeavours should be pursued to bring about, without

delay, and end to the policies of racial discrimination and apartheid in South Africa. Africa shall never rest, and struggle shall continue until the system of apartheid and the policy of racial discrimination are dismantled.

The challenge that besets Africa today is the realisation of sustained development as well as social and economic reforms. This stands as our first and foremost target. For the realisation of that target, every effort should be made to achieve African economic integration by the year 2000 in implementation of the Lagos plan action. We should also work harder to increase economic cooperation among African countries.

It must be underlined, however, that the problems facing Africa have far reaching effects that not only affect the dignity of the continent and its legitimate rights but also have adverse effects on world peace and stability. The destructive consequences of these problems are bound to extend beyond the African continent to encompass the whole world.

The time has come, to alert world public opinion to the plight of Africa. Time has come for a genuine and meaningful dialogue and cooperation between North and South. Debtor and creditor countries should take further steps to find concrete ways and means to improve the economic situation of African countries and to ease their critical financial problems. Detente



Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LETTER I do not understand

To the Editor:

I WONDERED on reading the article Nelly Lanna wrote on my exhibition, how I could have said something, I myself do not understand. What does, "experimentation should be done on an aesthetic basis and attempts to reach a healthy combination of both essentials" mean? As for my teachers, I feel grateful and indebted to them for all the attention, guidance and encouragement they gave me. It was only the whole academic system that I had shunned.

I wish critics would try less hard at being complex, and write instead in a language that the ordinary reader can comprehend. Ever since I read the article, I have been looking at my poor "Vase with Leaves," with both puzzlement and bewilderment. I had only enjoyed painting what I saw, I was never aware of either solving, or creating problems.

Last, I would like to point a possibly trivial detail, but the Matisse mentioned in my painting, is just a modest line-print of mine.

Randa Berouti
Amman

Albania set to rejoin world

SO ALBANIA has not proved immune to the wind of change which has swept through and transformed Eastern Europe over the past year. Even this last surviving Stalinist regime in the region has now promised a package of reforms which, if fully implemented, will soften its repressive and reclusive image.

Since coming under Communist control in 1946, the 3.3 million citizens of this small Balkan country have been virtually cut off from the outside world, especially under the dictator Enver Hoxha, who ruled until 1985.

The reforms were announced shortly before the arrival of United Nations' Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for the first such visit to Tirana. It was the strongest sign yet that the Albanian regime wished to end its isolation.

Before leaving, the secretary-general said the Albanian leadership had assured him that it would not retreat from its reform process. His hosts had also shown "great flexibility" on all questions of human rights.

Under the reform programme ordinary Albanians will be allowed passports to travel abroad for the first time in more than four decades. However, it will be difficult to exercise this right, given the level of poverty and the shortage of foreign currency.

Other changes include the restoration of Ministry of Justice — abolished in 1965 — and the softening of the penal code, reducing the number of capital



Albania, Eastern Europe's last bastion of hardline Communist rule, is showing strong signs of wanting to end its long, self-imposed isolation. This was underlined by the first-ever visit of a

United Nations' secretary-general to Tirana. Here, Javier Perez de Cuellar is seen (left) with Albanian leader Ramiz Alia (Lion photo)

crimes from 34 to 11.

Moreover, spreading "religious propaganda" will no longer be a crime against the State. And the right of an accused to a defence lawyer is to be restored.

Among other indications that Tirana wishes to reopen its windows to the world was the statement by the prime minister, Adil Carcani, that his country wants to take part in the work of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. True to its character up to now, the Albanian regime has refused to join in the so-called Helsinki process.

Hoxha's successor, Ramiz Alia, had earlier said that his country wished to restore diplomatic relations with both the United States and the Soviet Union. The former has been reviled as "imperialist," while links with

"revisionist" Moscow were severed as far back as 1961.

Although a perpetual odd man out for most of the time, the Albanian regime is the sole survivor of the type of dictatorship foisted on Eastern Europe by Stalin after the World War II.

But the edifice that was the Soviet bloc has crumbled dramatically over the past year in a wave of popular revolutions throughout the region. The fate of the bloc's main structures reflect this rapid disintegration.

COMECON, the Moscow-led economic grouping, has virtually stopped functioning, while its military counterpart, the Warsaw Pact, is breaking up amid considerable rancour between the USSR and the former satellites.

Vyacheslav Sychev, COMECON's secretary, has admitted that the ten-member organisation

has no future in its present form as it had become ossified, inflexible, out of touch with economic reality — and increasingly irrelevant to world trade.

He told a conference at Ghent, Belgium, that COMECON's share of global trade last year was only nine per cent, and that in high technology "in infinitesimal."

Meanwhile, reports from at least two European capitals suggest that relations have become strained due to disputes over the financial arrangements relating to the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The differences are over the prices being paid for buildings and other facilities being vacated by the Russians.

In some instances the departing troops are said to have smashed up their bases, blown up ammunition and sold weapons to local civilians — (Lion Features.)

Adventure booming from Himalayas to Amazon but environmentalists worried

By William R. Cormier
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A burgeoning travel industry that takes tourists to remote regions including Antarctica, the Himalayas and the Galapagos is drawing fire for leaving man's footprint on some of Earth's most fragile frontiers.

Adventure travel amounts to an estimated \$1.3 billion, or 10 per cent, of the U.S. travel market. And no one seems to know just how big the market will grow.

But one thing is certain: Adventure travel is sparking debate over whether it recruits ambassadors for the Earth, or poses an ecological risk because of the intrusion on little-spoiled regions and civilisations.

"There's clearly a trend toward these type of expeditionary visit to remote places in the world," said Bruce Manheim, an environmentalist seeking tourist controls in Antarctica, "one of the favoured destinations.

Travel agents and tour operators are selling the trips to the affluent and well-travelled with this message: "Go now before environmental destruction of Earth's final frontiers is complete."

If you've never been to Africa, go because they're thinking of fencing in the game preserves. I've never been to Madagascar but I'm going to make it before it's gone, because they're chopping down the trees," he explained.

Environmentalists say it is the tourists themselves who are often invading each year by thousands of tourists, and their numbers are growing. Scientists complained last year that some were not heeding the rules of conservation.

"If they don't slow the pace of indiscriminate tourism, there will

be a lot of environmental groups," he added.

Take the example of the Galapagos, a fragile volcanic chain of islands perched on the Equator in the Pacific, 1,000 kilometres west of South America.

The desolate archipelago is invaded each year by thousands of tourists, and their numbers are growing. Scientists complained last year that some were not heeding the rules of conservation.

"If they don't slow the pace of indiscriminate tourism, there will

be a debacle and then ... no tourist will want to visit some dead islands," said Gonzalo Ceron, one researcher on the islands.

Tourism is also up in Antarctica. About 800 tourists visited in 1988, nearly 3,000 in 1989, and more than 4,000 are expected in the December-February season. U.S.-based ocean cruise lines is about to send the largest cruise ship in years to Antarctica, the 460-passenger ocean princess.

"This may be just the tip of the iceberg," said Manheim, who is seeking strict U.S. guidelines on tourist activities on the frozen continent and coordination of cruise ship visits to wildlife breeding areas.

The U.S. government defends its regulatory programme as sufficient, but conservationists are wary after a January 1989 fuel oil spill from an Argentine supply ship, the Bahia Paraiso, which was carrying 81 tourists.

Meanwhile, travel to the Himalayas has expanded enormously.

Sir Edmund Hillary, who conquered Mount Everest in 1953, complained in March that tourist development was destroying much of the pristine beauty of the Himalayas.

"The living standards are increasing, but the beautiful tracks and valleys have been littered," he said.

In Brazil, tourism is leading to encroachment on jungle tribes said Barnes, who added, "These are ancient peoples deserving as deep respect as flowers and they are truly endangered."

Richard Brill, a U.S. tour operator who first started taking tourists up the Amazon years ago, said tourists can now go all 5,120 kilometres. He said the trip is actually a good tool for promoting ambassadors for the Amazon.

"I can show you scores of letters from people who have taken my voyages, who have become involved right away with the Earth," he said.

Washington-based environmental lobby with affiliates in 38 countries, said adventure tourism has both positive and negative effects.

"On the one hand, it's always useful to have intelligent and outwardly looking people to look at places in need of protection and it helps to provide a constituency for (environmental) protection," he said.

"But the scale of these activities is growing at such a pace that it does provide cause for concern

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"On the one hand, it's always useful to have intelligent and outwardly looking people to look at places in need of protection and it helps to provide a constituency for (environmental) protection," he said.

"But the scale of these activities is growing at such a pace that it does provide cause for concern

be a debacle and then ... no tourist will want to visit some dead islands," said Gonzalo Ceron, one researcher on the islands.

Tourism is also up in Antarctica. About 800 tourists visited in 1988, nearly 3,000 in 1989, and more than 4,000 are expected in the December-February season.

U.S.-based ocean cruise lines is about to send the largest cruise ship in years to Antarctica, the 460-passenger ocean princess.

"This may be

Polish workers threaten 90-minute work stoppage

WARSAW (AP) — Striking railroad workers threatened a 90-minute nationwide work stoppage Monday after rejecting a midnight appeal by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to settle their demands.

"It failed, goodbye," Walesa said as he left the strike headquarters in the city of Slupsk at 3 p.m. Sunday, following a three-hour meeting with strikers who had broken off negotiations with the government Saturday.

Walesa warned that the strikers' actions could lead to civil war and the resignation of Solidarity-backed Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

The week-old strike has cut off freight from Poland's Baltic coast and train service across the country's northwest. Rail traffic from Poland's industrial south as well as Czechoslovakia and Hungary has been disrupted, and the army has been drafted to move essential goods.

The strike also has posed a mounting challenge to Poland's post-Communist reformers, who have refused to discuss pay demands they say could scuttle the country's economic "shock" programme, an attempt to move quickly from central planning to a market-based system.

Rail workers said they would not intensify the strike Sunday, during Poland's first fully democratic local elections since before World War II.

Party politburo member, began representing the renegade workers after the government refused to open negotiations because the wildcat strike was not being conducted by legal unions.

The government subsequently agreed to talks Saturday. But they broke down after Labour Minister Jacek Kuroń reiterated his refusal to discuss wage demands. "I am willing to talk with everybody... about everything except wages," he said.

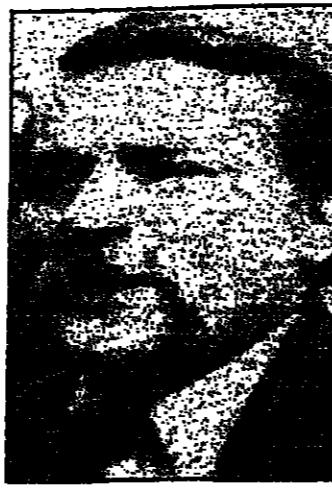
Walesa told the strikers the government cannot concede because "there are others waiting in line for strikes."

The government's concession "would be an indication that if one goes on strike, one gets whatever one wants. The prime minister will resign if protest spread," Walesa said.

Walesa's ambassadorial work on behalf of the government solidarity helped to create came despite his strained relations with Mazowiecki over the pace of reforms. The strikers accused Walesa of being an agent for the prime minister.

"I am not the government's agent... I am doing this for... the democracy that is being built in Poland," he said.

The strikers rejected Walesa's plan to end the strike based on his personal guarantee to work for their demands and press his criticism of the government for "realising the reforms too slowly."



Lech Walesa

He proposed giving the government two strike-free weeks to resolve the grievances, backed by his promise to join a strike if no agreement was reached.

There were signs of disagreement between the strike committee, which has appeared to be seeking accord, and a group of more militant workers, including about 50 who conducted a hunger strike.

Mazowiecki has repeatedly voiced sympathy for the hardships Poles have suffered during the five-month-old bid to create a market economy from the shattered socialist system. Controlling wages and allowing prices to rise to market levels has restricted store shelves but reduced real incomes by an estimated 40 per cent.

Abu Dhabi aims for \$18 a barrel

SANAA (R) — Two Soviet firms licensed to explore for oil in the newly united Yemeni republic may have to withdraw from the agreement due to financial and technical problems, western oil industry sources said.

The sources said Machinimport and Zarughegeologia — which together have an 18.75 per cent stake in a joint-venture consortium — were unable to meet some of the requirements of the agreement.

The Soviet firms were supposed to provide equipment and services to the other foreign companies exploring a 2,100 square kilometre area in the centre of the country, the sources said.

But some of the other firms taking part — Hunt and Exxon of the United States, France's CFP-Totan and Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Corporation — said the Soviet equipment was below standard, the sources said.

"We hope other OPEC states will comply with their quotas so prices will stay at a reasonable level," Sheikh Khalifa was quoted as saying in the article, made available to Reuters before publication.

Sheikh Khalifa, chairman of the Supreme Petroleum Council of Abu Dhabi, said ministers from OPEC would consider a new output ceiling and quota system when they met in Geneva in July.

High OPEC production has sent prices sliding. The market has been watching for firm signs that members are cutting output.

Abu Dhabi produces around two-thirds of the output of the United Arab Emirates, which said this month it would cut production by 200,000 barrels per day (bpd) as part of an OPEC agreement to prop up prices.

Israel begins research on a supercomputer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After U.S. reluctance to allow the export of supercomputers to Israel, Israeli scientists have begun research for an innovative system more powerful than anything the United States has right now, according to university officials.

Three Israeli institutions have applied for licenses to buy Cray and IBM supercomputers, but the permits have been held up out of concern that might use the fast-computing systems to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

An inter-agency administration team has been considering the applications for almost two years but has thus far refused to yield to pressure from manufacturers and lobbyists.

The writing's on the wall," said Maia Hauser, the U.S. spokeswoman for Technion, Israel's leading high-tech university. "We'll have to go it on our own."

Technion applied in 1988 for a Cray-T for scientific and engineering research. The Weizmann Science Institute and Bar-Ilan University also have pending license requests. The Commerce Department, which has final say on the licensing, is banned by law

from discussing supercomputer applications.

Israel has set up government committees to investigate the feasibility of entering into research and development of a new brand of supercomputer which is based on parallel computation techniques rather than on serial ones, said Technion Vice-President Brian Silver.

U.S. and West German scientists have started researching parallel computers.

Israel would have gone into such research anyway because that is the wave of the future in supercomputers but the U.S. hold on the supercomputers has given the project a strong push, he said.

"There's not much difficulty in us producing them within several years if we decide to," said Silver.

Technion scientists have already begun theoretical research into parallel computing and laboratories are being set up to conduct experiments, he said.

Technion has also discussed buying a sophisticated West German computer, which uses applications of parallel computations, to serve as a basis for a future Israeli supercomputers, he said.

Soviets may have to quit Yemen oil exploration

search for oil and natural resources."

Former North Yemeni Oil Minister Ahmed Ali Al Muhani told Reuters early in May the consortium would spend a minimum of \$37 million to drill seven wells and carry out seismic surveys over five years.

The two Yemens united last Tuesday and South Yemen's Oil Minister Saleh Abu Bakr Ibn Hussainous was chosen as minister of oil and mineral resources of the new republic.

Consortium operator CFP-Totan had short-listed four firms to begin a seismic survey of the area, the sources said.

They are the French Compagnie Generale de Geophysique, and U.S. firms Western Geophysical, Halliburton and Norpac.

A decision is expected by mid-June with work due to begin by early July.

Experts said the oil reserves of what used to be socialist South Yemen, although believed to be far greater than further north, were largely untapped because of problems encountered by Soviet experts.

Yemen's volcanic rock formation and high gas content make drilling difficult, they said.

Before the merger, North Yemen pumped 185,000 barrels per day (bpd) and South Yemen about 15,000.

Western oil industry sources said the opening of a 120,000 bpd export pipeline to the southern Bir Ali export terminal scheduled for April has been delayed because Soviet builders had cash problems.

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli firms allowed to invest abroad

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli companies will be permitted to invest up to 20 per cent of shareholders' capital abroad and form strategic partnerships with foreign firms, the central bank has announced. In a move designed to liberalise Israel's tightly controlled currency market, the Bank of Israel will relax restrictions to allow firms to strengthen their foreign trade ties. Until now firms were not allowed to invest abroad except for marketing purposes.

Iran inaugurates methanol plant

NICOSIA (R) — A 12-billion-rial (\$170 million) methanol production plant has begun operating in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz. Tehran radio said daily output of 255 tonnes of methanol could be used in the production of paint, synthetic fibres, pharmaceuticals and a variety of chemicals. Inaugurating the state-owned plant, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told the radio that \$40 million of the total investment was made in hard currency. He invited Iranian businessmen to build downstream factories to process the methanol into more valuable products.

Yemen to work for stronger economy

ABU DHABI (R) — The head of the five-day-old Yemeni government said in remarks published Sunday its aim was to activate the economy and step up oil exploration. "The economy issue will be the pivot of the new government's activities in the next stage," Haidar Abu Baker Al Attas, prime minister of the United Yemen, told Abu Dhabi's Al Ittihad newspaper. In his first press interview since the merger of the two countries on May 22, Attas, former president of socialist South Yemen, said: "Attention will be given to farming, fishing, trade and intensifying the search for oil and natural resources. We look forward to building a state of constitutional institutions, democracy, justice and equality."

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, May 27, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	447.3 450.0
U.S. dollar	668.0	Dutch guilder	352.9 355.0
Pound Sterling	1129.9	Swedish crown	110.2 110.9
Deutschmark	397.0	Italian lira (for 100)	54.1 54.4
Swiss franc	469.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	192.3 193.5
French franc	118.0	—	—

DOWN 1 Sweetie 33 Ruhr Valley 39 Conduit
1 Sweetie 33 Ruhr Valley 44 Spots
2 Sweetie 34 River 45 Flashes
3 Peles flow 34 River 46 Trapshooting
4 Apartment 34 River 47 Humiliate
5 Harvard hue 34 River 48 Door section
6 — acid 34 River 49 Art. ill
6 — acid 34 River 50 Specify

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 28, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

have as a partner or an associate so that person know of your decision.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day to make sure you get everything about you in apple pie condition so that it is easier for you to operate there-to be business-like.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your home concerns are quite evident now and you are able to handle them in a very practical fashion; be sure to cooperate with your family.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A good time to catch up on your correspondence etc., as the right word, phrase and sentence come to you easily and its also possible to make quick contacts.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be especially cordial to a new acquaintance with whom you want some continuing contact and join forces in doing whatever you both wish.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Find out early what your attachment especially wants you to do and make a point that you do it for it can have intermittent benefits follow for you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you are aware of how best to impress one you would like to

have as a partner or an associate so that person know of your decision.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make dates early to see those congenial companions with whom you most like to spend your offhours at entertainments and amusements.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An understanding friend who has your interest very much at heart is the person for you to turn to for assistance in gaining a cherished longing.

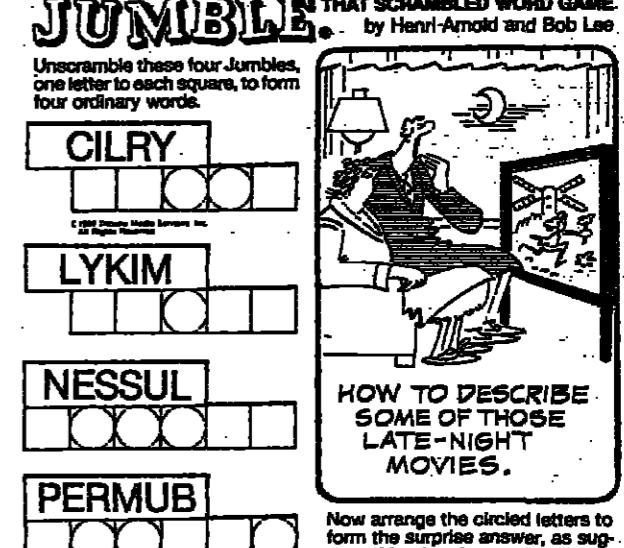
GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A day to let be known to whomever you want favours in the outside world and then to carry through by indicating your expertise.

PIRATES: (February 20 to March 20) Be just as personal and subjective as you like today and do what will enhance your appearance and your health, see and be with good companions.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri-Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "CILRY" OF THE LYKIM

Yesterday's Jumbles: EPOCH LYING BODILY OUTCRY. Answer: What the mountaineer's mascot was—"TOP DOG".

THE Daily Crossword by Louis Seltzer



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:
1. Moiley 14. Kind of shark 21. Playing field
2. Kin 15. Culp 22. South Bend's "Fighting" —
3. Kin 16. South Bend's "Fighting" —
4. Bright star 17. Bright star
5. Mulligan's kin 18. Mulligan's kin
6. Baseball heading 19. Vivarium relative
7. Eastern skiff 20. Asher and Nathan
8. Enclosures 21. Haggard novel
9. Plato stopped here 22. Old Eng.
10. GI addresses 23. Regal for music
11. Not so much 24. Elit kin
12. War god 25. Money players
13. One of 37A 26. Learned
14. One of 37A 27. Ringing
15. Walked 28. Base-stealer's forte
16. Cultivated 29. Alphabet run
17. Land 30. Ringing
18. Drop 31. Clog or loafer
19. Heavyweight 32. Old Eng.
20. Ironclad 33. Writer Walton
21. Ironclad 34. Ringing
22. Ironclad 35. Ringing
23. Ironclad 36. Ringing
24. Ironclad 37. Ringing
25. Ironclad 38. Ringing
26. Ironclad 39. Ringing
27. Ironclad 40. Ringing
28. Ironclad 41. Ringing
29. Ironclad 42. Ringing
30. Ironclad 43. Ringing
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73. Ironclad 86. Ringing
74. Ironclad 87. Ringing
75. Ironclad 88. Ringing
76. Ironclad 89. Ringing
77. Ironclad 90. Ringing
78. Ironclad

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 28, 1990.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Baseball results for games played on Friday May 25.

T-BALL: All five teams: Data Mini, Aqaba Shipping Co., Jordan Library, Hashashin/BBB and Jordan Express played their final games.

COACH-PITCH

Armenex 19	Comcent 8
MST 23	Pirelli 15
Epson 13	AFC 4
Intercon. 19	AICI 10

KID-PITCH

NECC 16	Marriott 4
Danish Dairy 16	Mr. Chips 2
Westinghouse 19	J.W.M. 11

SOFTBALL

Gaddouni Agr. 11	Volvo 1
Nadas 10	2nd T.A. 5

BASEBALL STANDINGS

COACH-PITCH

TEAM	WON	LOST
NSI	6	1
Epson	6	1
Armenex	5	2
Intercon.	5	2
AICI	2	5
Pirelli	2	5
Comcent	1	6
AFC	1	6

KID-PITCH

TEAM	WON	LOST
NECC	9	0
Danish D.	7	2
Westinghouse	4	5
J.W.M.	3	6
Mr. Chips	2	7
Marriott	2	7

SOFTBALL

TEAM	WON	LOST
Gaddouni	5	2
Nadas	4	2
2.T.A.	3	2
Volvo	2	4

T-ball action at home plate.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSH

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ
you hold:

♦AQJ43 ♦75 ♦A182 ♦763

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 ♦ 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ 1 ♠

Pass 1 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A—Partner is not running from one spade with a weak hand; he is making a forward-going bid. That means he should have at least the equivalent of an opening bid. We suggest you invite game by raising to two no trump.

Q2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦AQ ♦AK84 ♦Q83 ♦Q83

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A—You are in the same zone, but you have no idea yet where you want to play the hand. To leave the maximum room for exploration respond one diamond. Partner's next bid will help clarify his holding.

Q3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦Q76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q4—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A—Partner has shown a balanced minimum opening bid. Since your hand is a balanced minimum response, a part-score is the best you can hope for. Pass, even though you have four-card support for partner's minor and your side surely has an eight-card club fit.

Q6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A—Point count does not do full justice to your hand. All the values are prime, you have a fifth trump, good intermediates, a high honor in partner's suit and a ruffing value. This hand revalues to a full opening bid, so jump to four spades.

Q7—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q8—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q9—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q10—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q11—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q12—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q13—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q14—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q15—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q16—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q17—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q18—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q19—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q20—As South, vulnerable with 40 score, you hold:

♦K76 ♦J53 ♦AK763

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Gorbachev expects to clash with Bush over NATO and Germany

NEW YORK (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev says he and George Bush have come to trust each other, but are certain to disagree at their upcoming summit over whether a unified Germany should belong to NATO.

While many Americans and Europeans credit the North Atlantic alliance with keeping peace during the cold war, Soviets see it as a symbol of "a dangerous and confrontational past," Gorbachev said in an interview with Time magazine.

"For our people too, NATO is associated with the cold war — but as an organization designed from the start to be hostile to the Soviet Union... and we will never agree to assign it the leading role in building a new Europe," he said.

Gorbachev gave the interview Tuesday at his office in Moscow. A transcript is to appear in the June 4 edition of the U.S.-based weekly news magazine. Copies were released in advance to the media.

Asked by Time whether he expects to disagree with Bush over whether a united Germany should join NATO, Gorbachev said, "I wouldn't say I expect a major disagreement. I'll state for a fact that there will be one."

But "I do expect the differences to be narrowed," Time quoted Gorbachev as saying of the upcoming talks with Bush in Washington.

Bush and Gorbachev are to begin their summit Thursday and conclude it Sunday with a news conference.

The U.S. and West German governments have insisted that membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is a must.

Bush told reporters Saturday he will try to persuade Gorbachev that the Soviet Union "is not threatened by a united Germany."

Western officials have remarked

in recent weeks that Moscow has been applying the brakes in the conventional forces talks in Vienna. They assumed it was because of Soviet worries about German unity.

Gorbachev said previously that he wanted progress at those talks, but that those who favoured a united Germany in NATO were disturbing the delicate balance in Europe.

He urged Germans on the path to unification to never forget that their country is pivotal to peace in Europe.

"(Unification) affects the vital interests of many countries in Europe, including the Soviet Union,

which sacrificed more than anyone to make sure that war should never again come from Germany's territory," said Gorba-

chev.

"Now even the most sincere assurances given now, in this headlong rush, can substitute for solid international guarantees that Germany will always pursue peaceful development and peaceful policies toward other countries," he said.

The Kremlin leader's comments mirrored remarks he made in Moscow Friday at a press conference with visiting French President Francois Mitterrand.

He said that Western insistence that a united Germany be a full member of NATO could force Moscow to reconsider its attitude to the entire European detente process.

But Gorbachev also indicated that Moscow would be willing to consider a united Germany with the same status in NATO as France, that is, as a member of the political organisation but not integrated into the military com-

mand.

Mutual trust

In the interview, he said he and Bush "have come to trust each other more since our discussions

at Malta," where their previous summit was held last December. He also said "a mutual understanding had emerged that the cold war has become a thing of the past."

But, he warned, "the strength of our relationship is being tested, and it will be tested again in the future."

The wide-ranging interview, held in the Kremlin, also touched on Soviet domestic issues, including the painful transition to a market-based economy and the attempted secession of the Baltic republics.

Some of his comments were given in writing to questions submitted in advance.

Economic reforms

Gorbachev said the Soviet government's plan for economic reform, unveiled last week by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhikov, charts "a radical path" but avoids the shock of an overnight transition from central planning to a free market.

He predicted that one or two years will be needed to set up market mechanisms, including "various laws on taxes, enterprise, antitrust, credit, finance and social protection — the safety net."

But he said the development of a full-fledged market economy would take much longer. He also conceded that both high inflation and unemployment are likely during the transition.

Gorbachev indicated that the future Soviet economic system would have elements of capitalism, including "shareholder companies" and "leasehold properties," but said it might follow the example of France and Scandinavia, where "a significant portion of the economy is publicly held."

He also cast doubt on whether the ultimate goal should be an American-style consumer



Soviet troops kill 6 Armenians in Yerevan

MOSCOW (R) — Six Armenians were shot dead in clashes with Interior Ministry troops at Yerevan railway station early Sunday, the Interior Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman told Reuters by telephone from the Armenian capital that clashes erupted when a train full of Interior Ministry troops arrived.

Local people streamed to the central station to turn them away.

"Windows were smashed. People were taken out of the train injured," she said.

TASS news agency said Friday that a soldier was shot dead at point-blank range in the main bus station of Stepanakert on Thursday night. Other troops were wounded in attacks on army checkpoints. One Armenian militant was also killed.

The nationalist Armenian National Movement accused Soviet troops Friday of driving through streets in Stepanakert and firing at will into crowds.

A spokesman for the movement said the armed forces were angered by Armenia's defiance of Moscow in extending republic-wide elections to Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenians there voted in secret in private houses.

The movement said it planned meetings Sunday and Monday to mark the National Day.

The Transcaucasian region, embracing Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, has been the worst

violence in five years of Soviet liberal reforms that have unleashed strong nationalist passions.

The area suffered some of the bloodiest purges of the Stalinist era.

More than 180 people have been killed in clashes over Armenia's demand for political control over Nagorno-Karabakh. But

Moscow has allowed Azerbaijan to retain the territory, stirring

furious resentment in Armenia against Kremlin authorities as well as Azerbaijan.

The troops were sent to the Armenian capital on the eve of Armenia's National Day — marking the start of the republic's

brief period of independence, won in 1918 and ended by Russian troops two years later.

The Armenian journalist said

troops were already very high at

the station when the troops train arrived.

She said an Armenian train

pulled into the station two hours

earlier after being attacked on its

way through the Azerbaijani en-

clave of Nakhichevan.

"Windows were smashed. Peo-

ple were taken out of the train

injured," she said.

TASS news agency said Friday

that a soldier was shot dead at

point-blank range in the main bus

station of Stepanakert on Thurs-

day night. Other troops were

wounded in attacks on army

checkpoints. One Armenian mili-

tant was also killed.

The nationalist Armenian Na-

tional Movement accused Sovi-

et troops Friday of driving

through streets in Stepanakert

and firing at will into crowds.

A spokesman for the move-

ment said the armed forces were

angered by Armenia's defiance of

Moscow in spite of extreme cold

and fatigue, and this means we

can move on to some other

mountains. But not to that huge

mountain again."

COLUMN

One trip to the top
'is enough' for
Peter Hillary

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — One trip to the top was enough for the son of the first climber of Mount Everest. Peter Hillary, his father, Sir Edmund Hillary, first scaled Everest 37 years ago and Peter had been trying to climb it for the last eight years. He failed in his three previous attempts due to unfavourable weather and fatigue. "The Himalayas are a serious place. If you don't get down, you are a dead man. The summit is only half the way," Peter Hillary said.

The nationalist Armenian National Movement accused Soviet troops Friday of driving through streets in Stepanakert and firing at will into crowds.

A spokesman for the movement said the armed forces were angered by Armenia's defiance of Moscow in extending republic-wide elections to Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenians there voted in secret in private houses.

The movement said it planned meetings Sunday and Monday to mark the National Day.

The Transcaucasian region, embracing Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, has been the worst

violence in five years of Soviet liberal reforms that have unleashed strong nationalist passions.

The area suffered some of the

bloodiest purges of the Stalinist era.

More than 180 people have been killed in clashes over Armenia's demand for political control over Nagorno-Karabakh. But

Moscow has allowed Azerbaijan to retain the territory, stirring

furious resentment in Armenia against Kremlin authorities as well as Azerbaijan.

The troops were sent to the

Armenian capital on the eve of Armenia's National Day — marking the start of the republic's

ing recoilless rifles.

Communist death squads gunned down Colonel Reynaldo Dino, a constabulary deputy chief, and seven other people in two street ambushes during the past week.

Grenade attacks on two banks and at an army checkpoint and attempt to bomb other offices in the Makati Financial District during the week have heightened tension around the capital.

The military blamed rebel soldiers for the bomb attacks, saying they were intended to create political instability and further weaken President Corazon Aquino's government.

**Rocky V to be
the last**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sylvester Stallone says this summer's Rocky V will be the last in the series because there is nothing more to say about the not-so-talkative palooka. "I have no more to say about the character which is my alter ego, I can't deny that," Stallone said. So what's ahead for Stallone? "Right now," he said, "we're doing something ecological, which is the theme of the 1990s. Then I'd like to do a comedy." The movie's premiere is tentatively set for Nov. 15.

**Biographer claims
Elvis committed
suicide**

NEW YORK (AP) — A controversial biographer who stunned Elvis Presley fans in 1981 with his revelations about the drug habits of the rock 'n' roll king now says Presley committed suicide with a huge drug overdose.

"It's the dream gone to nightmare. It's perfect. It's the archetypal rags to riches to rot story," writer Albert Goldman said as the presses were rolling on a Life magazine article in which he makes the claims. The story is getting prominent display in the June issue.

"Thirteen years after the death of Elvis Presley, new evidence points to an inescapable conclusion: suicide," reads a copy of the article, which was released in advance to reporters.

The sources said rebels were also seen near the international airport, 50 kilometres southeast of the capital.

These advances are the closest the rebels have moved toward the capital since they began their attack on Dec. 24 from the Ivory Coast in a bid to overthrow Doe.

In Monrovia, about 500 members of the two tribes — the Gio and Mano — that have largely supported the rebels crowded into the local United Nations headquarters Saturday, pleading for protection from attacks by government forces, according to Michael Heyn, chief U.N. representative in Monrovia.

Heyn said talks were under way with the government to assure their safety.

About 300 people had asked for help from the U.S. embassy Friday but were turned away.

The refugees said many of their friends and relatives have been killed or detained.

Yugoslav premier faces row over plans to create new party

ousting the Communists in the republics of Croatia and Slovenia are respected.

"If we take into account the fact that Ante Markovic and the government came to power thanks to the LCY, this must appear at the very least incomprehensible and shameful," the Serbian newspaper Politika reported Sunday.

Markovic told Reuters he and his Communist government intended to form a new party and rally a coalition around his programme of Western-style economic reforms.

He hinted he may run against the League of Communists (LCY), which has ruled Yugoslavia for 45 years, in the country's first free federal election since before World War II.

But Serbian newspapers attacked Markovic's remarks and a government statement last week demanding that the results of free regional elections which

the victory in Croatia of the Croatian Democratic Union, which has been accused of fervent nationalism by the media in Serbia, the biggest of the six Yugoslav republics and an advocate of strong central rule.

The Serbian newspaper Politika, which usually reflects the views of the republic's Communist Party leaders, devoted a whole page to attacking Markovic, prime minister since March 1989.

The only initial support came from the Socialist Alliance, a leftist organisation which Tanjug News Agency said was ready to nominate Markovic as an election candidate.

Markovic's programme of economic reforms, which include tight controls on money supply and closing loss-making factories, has won wide approval in Yugoslavia.

It appeared to be referring to

two Managua hotels — the Intercontinental and the Mercedes — where the rebels were staying after breaking off disarmament talks.

The police did not appear to be threatening the rebels, but contra leaders said they were told they could not leave the hotel grounds.

Superpowers fear India-Pakistan nuclear clash on Kashmir — report

LONDON (R) — The U.S. and Soviet governments fear nuclear war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir after intelligence reports that both countries are readying atomic arsenals, Britain's Sunday Times newspaper said.

Quoting unnamed U.S. intelligence

and Defence Department sources, the newspaper said spy satellites had photographed armed convoys leaving Pakistani nuclear complexes at Kahuta, near Islamabad, and heading for military airfields.

The film also showed what analysts believed to be nuclear

bomb racks being fitted to Pakistani F-16 aircraft.

The newspaper's defence correspondent in Washington said the Soviet Union had informed U.S. authorities that India

appeared to be putting nuclear weapons on alert as part of its

preparations for war.

bomb racks being fitted to Paki-

stani F-16 aircraft.

The elections follow 20 months of military rule imposed after troops killed hundreds of demonstrators to crush a nationwide pro-democracy uprising.

Western governments, human rights groups and dissident organisations have dismissed the poll as a farcical attempt by